

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors and to employ more idiomatic English.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention over the art.

New claims 14-18 have been added to further scope the invention. No new matter has been entered.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1, 10 and 11 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Amemiya (U.S. Patent 5,877,734), and claims 2-9, 12 and 13 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Amemiya in view of Kanazawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,559,814), Amemiya and Kanazawa et al. essentially have the same structure as the prior art illustrated in FIG. 1 of the present application, and are therefore different from the structure to which the present invention is directed. Specifically, both references disclose a method and apparatus for driving a plasma display panel in which a sustaining electrode and scanning electrode are alternately disposed (FIG. 3, Amemiya; FIG. 1, Kanazawa et al.). These methods and apparatus are quite different from the method of the present invention for driving a plasma display panel, in which any one of a scanning electrode and a sustaining electrode is shared by neighboring display cells interposed therebetween, wherein on both sides of one of the sustaining electrode or the scanning electrode, the other one of the sustaining or scanning electrode is arranged, and two of the other one of the sustaining and scanning electrodes are arranged between each of the one of the sustaining or scanning electrodes. Therefore, the present invention is neither anticipated by Amemiya, nor obvious over Amemiya and Kanazawa et al.

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Further, the sustaining discharge pulse as shown in FIG. 4 in Amemiya is designed in such a way that the width of the sustaining discharge pulse to be applied to one of the sustaining electrode and the scanning electrode when that electrode functions as a positive electrode is narrower than that when that electrode functions as a negative electrode, and the width of the sustaining discharge pulse to be applied to the other one of the sustaining electrode and the scanning electrode when the other one of the electrode functions as a positive electrode is also narrower than that when the other one of the sustaining and scanning electrode functions as a negative electrode.

By way of contrast, in the present invention, if the width of the sustaining discharge pulse to be applied to one of the sustaining electrode and the scanning electrode when that electrode functions as a positive electrode is narrower than that when that electrode functions as a negative electrode, the width of the sustaining discharge pulse to be applied to the other one of the sustaining electrode and the scanning electrode when the other one of the electrodes functions as a positive electrode is wider than that when the other electrode functions as a negative electrode. Thus, Amemiya and the present invention differ from each other.

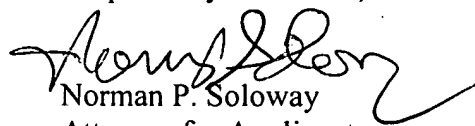
Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

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